



February 2019

We are hoping you will remember the story about Sam Jackson that we began last month. He's the one who says a huge THANK YOU to Say Yes for helping him to "run out of poverty." Below is the second part of his story...a story that will continue for eternity.



Sembuya Samuel Jacklewison (aka Sam Jackson)

Sam was able to finish his Senior 6 class and with sponsorship help he was able to get a 2-year diploma in computer engineering. Initially Sam took a job in a computer store but he didn't earn enough money to provide for his family's needs. So he returned to the brickyard.

Sam endured harassment at the brickyard - the guys would mock him because he was born again and because he was having to borrow from banks to get ahead. But he continued to move forward with his idea to not just help himself get ahead but to help the guys be successful, too. During this time of struggle, Sam did not fail to testify of the goodness of the Lord. As the young men saw how hard Sam worked and his passion to help others, they stopped harassing him as much and kept watching. With God's help his business began to gradually grow. He engaged three young men to help him with the promise that he would pay them enough to start their own business when his bricks sold.

Just before we arrived in Uganda in September 2018 Sam had already rented an acre of land and planted tomatoes. One of the young men from the brickyard committed to help him in return for funds to start his own business after the tomatoes were sold. Sam presented Say Yes with a proposal to help him get the most out of the tomatoes - he needed funds to purchase weekly pesticide spray for the 2-3 month growing season. We are happy to report Say Yes was able to help Sam with the pesticide spray and Sam had a successful growing season. The young man was presented with the funds he needed to start a boutique (used clothing shop).

The bricks were also sold and the other young men who helped him with that project received funds they needed to start their business: one purchased a boda boda (motorcycle) he will use to hire out for rides and the other one opened a gaming shop. Now the very men who mocked him are being born again and mentored by Sam. He even invited some of them to celebrate Christmas with him in his newly rented house (which was provided by a Say Yes donor). He is seen as someone who honors his word and truly has a heart to help others. This is unusual in Uganda, but we believe Sam is the first of many to come!

A side note to the brickyard happenings....the donated water filters Sam received at the Business Owner's Meeting last year are now in the brickyard. Everyone is so thankful for clean water to drink - the pond they were drawing water from is downright yukky!

Sam has dreams to start a hardware store, be a contractor, and even to start a sort of lending process to lend money to struggling young people at a low interest (the banks charge as much as 30% interest for a business loan!). God has gifted him with an incredible business acuity and he promises to use it for the glory of God.

But that's not the end of the story ... remember we told you Sam wanted land so he can grow vanilla and bananas? We are very happy to announce Say Yes received the funds needed to help Sam purchase this property. He now owns one acre of land in a prime area. Do you hear that?

Sam, a 25-year old Ugandan, actually OWNS property!!!

Although this was a distant dream in his heart, he was hard pressed to believe it would actually happen to him. And now he is constantly praising God for such provision. He sees that his future is bright and filled with the promise of God and is always sharing his testimony. God sovereignly put this all together – there is no way any of us could make this happen on our own.



The other part of this whole story is that additional funds were received to be able to purchase another acre of land for the Development Team right next to Sam's acre! Currently water is not readily available in the local area.

However, a donor has committed funds to drill a well – it will provide plenty of water for the two acres and to the community at large!!! Our hearts are singing right out loud!!

It is our honor and delight to share such a wonderful story with you. We are always encouraged to see the hand of God moving on behalf of those in Uganda. And He does that through the loving hearts and hands of His kids. Please consider joining the Say Yes \$25 Club – with just \$25 a month we can do so much more for the lovely, yet so many needy, people of Uganda. Together we can make a difference one person at a time.

Thank you for standing with Say Yes,

Virgil & Joy



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